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ABSTRACT

This annotated bibliography lists and describes non-sexist materials for children, including films; filmstrips; slide shows; photographs and posters; puzzles, games, and dolls; instructional aids; curriculum programs; reading texts; books; toys; and records. Also described are sources of information on guidelines, book and toy distributors, feminist publishers, and resource centers. Annotations are also provided for a separate listing of 37 non-sexist picture books. A final section lists articles, reports, and books on the subject of sex roles. (KP)

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BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NON-SEXIST MATERIALS

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NON-SEXIST PICTURE BOOKS

by

Women's Action Alliance, Inc.
Non-Sexist Child Development Project

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

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Bibliography of Non-Sexist Materials

Audio Visual Materials

Films

Campus Film Distributors Corp.
2 Overhill Road
Scarsdale, NY 10583

Part II "Southern Black Children" (From the Play and Cultural Continuity Series)- Shows scenes of black children from the South in various child care settings. Provides stimulus for discussion on differences in the play of boys and girls in these various setting. Of the four films in the series, this one was reviewed. We strongly urge interested persons to carefully preview the other three films. (27 mins., color, 1975, teacher training).

Contemporary/McGraw-Hill
Film Preview Library
P.O. Box 590
Hightstown, NJ 08520

"Sex Role Development"- Gives an overview of the ways sex-role stereotypes are perpetuated and shows how one set of parents and a pre-school program are trying to provide children with alternatives. (22 mins., color, 1974, teacher training, parent education).

Extension Media Center
University of California
Department SR-1
Berkeley, Calif. 94720

"Anything They Want To Be"- Vignettes of classroom scenes illustrating how girls are discouraged from succeeding in intellectual and career oriented tasks. (7 mins., color, 1974, classroom 3rd grade +, teacher training).

"Changing Images- Confronting Career Stereotypes"- The films shows 3rd and 4th graders at work as they challenge career stereotyping. Children discuss football players, nurses, family activities, etc. For sale or rental. (16 mins., black and white, 1975, classroom 3rd grade +, teacher training).

"Hey What About Us?"- Illustrates sex-role stereotyping of physical activities in elementary school settings. (15 mins., color, 1974, classroom 3rd grade +, teacher training).

"I is for Important"- Illustrates sex-role stereotyping in social interaction and emotional expression. Situations involve children from grades k . . . through 8th. (12 mins., color, 1974, classroom grade 3+, teacher training).

McGraw-Hill Film Rental
Princeton Laboratory
Hightstown, NJ 08520
Attention: Amy Hustedt

"Free To Be You And Me"- A film of the TV Special. Available as one 40-minute film or three 14-minute segements. For sale or rental (color, 1974, classroom 3rd grade +).

Mass Media Ministries
2116 No. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21218

"TV - The ANNONYMOUS TEACHER," Produced by United Methodist Communication. Interview with a psychologist on the effects of television are punctuated with film clips of young children watching T.V. The Narrator comments on effects of television on children's attitudes and behavior, violence, commercial advertising, sex-role and racial stereotyping and child viewing of adult programs among other issues. (15 mins., color, 1976, teacher training, parent education).

New Day Films
P.O. Box 315
Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417

"The Flashettes" directed by Bonnie Friedman- A moving film about a girl's track team that illustrates the value of sports in developing self confidence and a cooperative spirit. Sensitively shows the joy and pain of competition. (20 mins., color, 1976, grades 3-6, teacher training).

Non-Sexist Child Development Project
370 Lexington Avenue - Distributed by Third Eye Films
New York, NY 10017 12 Arrow St.
Cambridge, MA. 02138

"The Sooner The Better: Non-Sexist Education for Young Children"- A film which depicts non-sexist preschool classroom practices. Shot on location in schools from Boston to San Diego it has a truly multiracial tone. Excellent for pre-service and in-service teacher training programs and for parent education courses at the High School level. A study guide and classroom check-list hand-out provides material for in-depth discussion of the points illustrated by the film. (available for purchase or rental, 27 mins., color, 1977, teacher training).

"The Time Has Come: An Approach to Non-Sexist Parenting"- A complementary film to "The Sooner the Better." This film is designed for parents and depicts and discusses non-sexist childrearing. Also filmed on location in cities from Boston to San Diego, it too is multiracial and has a soft approach and encouraging tone. Suitable for parent discussion groups and as a teacher training aid in how to work with parents. Also useful for parent education programs at the high school level. (23 mins., color, 1977, parent education/ teacher training).

ODEON Films, Inc.
1619 Broadway
New York, NY 10019

"Sugar and Spice"- Shows what is being done in three schools in New York and Massachusetts to eliminate sex-role stereotyping. Focuses on changes in curriculum, teacher attitude and parent awareness. Produced in cooperation with the Women's Action Alliance, Inc. Available for purchase or rental with accompanying study guide and resource list (32 mins., color, 1974, teacher training).

Phoenix Films, Inc.
470 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016

"Girls Sports: On the Right Track"- Summarizes recent changes in sports for girls. Using track and field events as an example, portrays historical overview of women's achievements in these sports and the limitation and barriers they need to overcome. The experiences of three high school girls show the new opportunities available for girls today. (17 mins., color, 1976, junior high school, training for physical education teachers).

Filmstrips

Scholastic Magazines
(Audio Visual Dept.)
50 W. 44th Street
New York, NY 10036

"Beginning Concepts- People Who Work"- Ten sound/color filmstrips with cassettes or records depicting men and women at their unusual, non-traditional careers, 1975.

"Five Children" and "Five Families"- A cultural awareness sound filmstrip program. While not specifically designed as non-sexist materials the filmstrips are unusually sensitive portrayals of a wide variety of family lifestyles. "Five Families" is about life in a Chinese, Native American, Mexican American, Black and White family. "Five Children" shows how children live in various geographic locations. Available in Spanish and English.

"Explore"- A set of 3 units each containing 4 sound/filmstrips, student logbooks and teaching guide. Units are designed to aid children in defining work and play. They discuss how an individual's personality and interest influences career choices and explore several careers. The actual voices of the men, women, girls and boys featured in the filmstrips were taped and provided a very real touch. The program was designed with 4-6 graders in mind but some of the filmstrips are certainly useful for grades 7-8 as well.

Slide Shows

Educational Alliance Day Care Center
197 East Broadway
New York, NY 10007

"A Non-Sexist Curriculum for Early Childhood"- A slide presentation of the Non-Sexist Child Development Project as it developed at the Educational Alliance Day Care Center. Ann-Marie Mott and Sally Smith have turned their pictorial anecdotal records of what happens when teachers introduce children to non-sexist curriculum into an inspring audio-visual account. (20 mins., available with cassette or script in 1976).

Resource Center on Sex-Role in Education
1201 16th St., N.W. - Rm. 701
Washington, DC 20036

"Images of Males and Females in Elementary School Textbooks"- Documents differential treatment of males and females in math, science, reading and social studies texts, grades 1-6. Comes with booklet summarizing findings of the study and suggesting actions to be taken by teachers, administrators, parents and students. (Booklet can be ordered in bulk; 45 mins., with synchronized cassette tape and script, 1974).

Women on Words and Images
Box 2163
Princeton, NJ 08540

"Dick and Jane as Victims: Sex Role Stereotyping in Children's Readers"- Results of a research project on sexism in children's reading texts presented in dramatic visual form. Images of the way readers represent the stereotyped role of young and adult males and females. A booklet by the same title provides the rational, procedure and findings of the study. (30 mins., with synchronized cassette tape and script, 1976 revised expanded edition).

"Help Wanted"- A slide presentation on sexism in career materials similar in scope and impact to the "Dick and Jane" slides. Booklet also available. (25 mins., with synchronized cassette tape and script, 1975).

"Sexism in Foreign Language Textbooks"- A slide presentation on sexism in foreign language texts. (25 mins., with synchronized cassette tape and script, 1975).

Photographs and Posters

Change for Children
532 Valencia St.
San Francisco, CA 94110

"People At Work Photo Packet"- A packet of twenty 8" x 10" black and white photos of women and men in various non-traditional jobs.

"Women At work"- A packet of fifteen 8" x 10" photo reproductions of women of different ages and ethnic backgrounds working in non-traditional jobs.

David C. Cook Publishing Co.
School Products Division
Elgin, ILL. 60120

The American Women's Role - Yesterday and Today"- A set of sixteen 12" x 17" color pictures with accompanying 32 page manual. Dramatizes the past achievements of American women and focuses on opportunities for women's total involvement in America's future. Recommended for grades 4-8.

Exploring Childhood Program
Educational Development Center
15 Mifflin Pl.
Cambridge, MA. 02138

"We Are A Family"- A poster of many types of non-nuclear, multiracial, multiethnic families.

F.R.E.E. (Feminist for Equal Education)
Box 185
Saxxonville Station
Framingham, MA. 01701

"Resource Photos of Women in Community Jobs"- A set of eight 8" x 10" black and white photos. Especially good because it depicts clearly recognizable community jobs such as a milk deliverer, a letter carrier, a police officer and a bus driver.

"Resource Photos of Women in Professional Roles"- Similar to the "Resource Photos of Women in Community Jobs" with eight 8" x 10" black and white photos. This set is not quite as good because some of the professions are a bit hard to define, i.e., a politician and a computer programmer, but others such as a judge and a potter are fine. Both sets are inexpensive and are a valuable resource.

The Instructo Corporation
Paoli, PA 19301

"Home and Family"- Twenty-four pictures of family members in a variety of situations. Includes images of family members of various ages and from different racial groups. Men are shown interacting with children in a nurturing manner.

Scott, Foresman and Company
99 Bauer Dr.
Oakland, NJ 07436

"Mothers Do Many Kinds of Work"- Poster of women engaged in several work situations, free.

Women in Sports
c/o Pat Kuess and Cathy Cade
2103 Emerson St.
Berkeley, CA. 94705

"Women in Sports"- A set of six 8 1/2" x 10 1/2" black and white photos depicting women and girls engaged in active sports. Shots include a weight lifter, a gymnast, a javelin thrower, a batter, two judo players and sprinters.

Women's Action Alliance, Inc.
Non-Sexist Child Development Project
370 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10017

"People at Work"- This set consists of twenty-four 8" x 10" black and white photos of people at work. Men and women have been photographed on location doing their jobs. An effort has been made to find as many non-stereotyped workers as possible. (Manufactured by the Instructo Corp.)

"Resource Photos of Men in the Nurturing Role"- This set consists of eight 8" x 10" black and white photos of men interacting with young children. There are fathers, grandfathers, and men who work with children as teachers and pediatric nurses. Also included is a poster featuring a grandfather and granddaughter in a group of sequential photographs involving playing with grandpa's hat. This poster is ideally suited to a variety of language arts activities. Photographs by Jim Levine.

Puzzles, Games and Dolls

Puzzles

Judy Puzzles
250 James Street
Morristown, NJ 07960

"Occupational Series"- Thirteen wooden puzzles depicting women in a variety of roles, including some which are non-traditional. Puzzle series contains both black and white figures.

Floor Puzzles

"The City"- A 2' x 3' heavy plastic coated cardboard puzzle consisting of 20 pieces. Depicts a big city scene with people working and going about their daily chores. Puzzle shows images of black and white people and some women in non-traditional jobs.

"The Park"- Similar in size, material and difficulty to "The City" puzzle except this item shows black and white people in a park setting. Includes a woman selling ballons and men caring for young children.

"Saftey"- A 2' x 3' heavy plastic coated cardboard puzzle consisting of 15 pieces. Depicts street scene emphasizing steps to health and safety such as crossing at the crosswalk and discarding litter in trash basket. A poster of the same scene is also available on 2' x 3' plastic coated paper.

"The Doctor"- Similar in size, material and difficulty to "Safety" puzzle. Depicts the scene in a medical center. Also available in poster version.

Childcraft
20 Kilmer Road
Edison, NJ 08817

"Bodies"- A sturdy plywood back 25 piece puzzle made from an appealing color photo of nude white male and black female children. Can be used to illustrate accurately the real differences between males and females and to initiate discussion about the body. (Also, watch for non-sexist wooden puzzles designed by the Women's Action Alliance, Inc. for Childcraft.)

Dolls

Childcraft
(see entry above)

Ethnic Dolls-

"Asian-American Child"	-	26" long - boy only
"Native-American Child"	-	18" long - girl only
"Black Child"	-	18" long - available in girl and boy versions

Cloth dolls filled with polyurethane stuffing. Features are painted on, yarn hair and beaded eyes firmly fixed. Come dressed in overalls and T-shirts. Good huggable dolls made to withstand rough handling or loving.

Fisher of America, Inc.
Montclair, NJ 07042

"Caleb"- A black boy doll dressed like the typical 4 or 5 year-old at play. Not anatomically correct but at least he's an adequate role model for little boys. (Part of the Sasha Line.)

Matel
2 Penn Plaza
New York, NY 10001

"Baby Brother Tender Love"- An anatomically complete male doll available in black and white version. A soft cuddly doll that will encourage nurturing play. Its realistic representation of the male body will ease anxieties raised in young boys upon seeing "incomplete" boy baby dolls.

Games and Instructional Aids

Fundamentals
P.O. Box 263
South Pasadena, CA 91030

Robot- A non-sexist version of the "Old Maid" card game. The cards depict women and men in counter-part work roles and clothing.

Women's Action Alliance, Inc.
Non-Sexist Child Development Project
370 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10017

-Block Accessories

. "My Family Play People"- Black and white family groups contain two parent age people, two older people, one teenager, and one small child. Allow children to reflect their own family reality rather than confining them to the nuclear or single ethnic family normally found in children's materials. Heavy cardboard, full color back and front views with plastic stands.
(Produced by Milton Bradley)

. "Our Community Helpers Play People"- Male and female letter carriers, construction workers, doctors, nurses, police officers and business executives. Heavy cardboard, full color back and front views with plastic stands.
(Produced by Milton Bradley).

-Flannel Board

. "Community Careers"- Twenty-seven multi-ethnic figures of men and women dressed in clothing appropriate to their jobs. Also contains interchangeable props and accessories relevant to the various community jobs and reading words which are non-sexist such as "repair person."
(Produced by Instructo Corp.)

-Lotto

"Play Scenes Lotto"- A photographic color lotto depicting both girls and boys in active play. Contains four playing boards with six photos on each plus matching cards. Multi-racial and non-sexist.
(Produced by Milton Bradley)

Curriculum Programs

From Dreams to Reality
Program Department
Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.
830 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022

From Dreams to Reality: A Career Awareness Exploration Project- An excellent program of career education activities for young girls that includes packets on five areas of the world of work covering careers in health, arts/communication, science/business/technology, social/personal services and career out of doors. Each packet includes a set of career cards and a booklet of activities. The career cards describe representative jobs and present information about the type of work required through interview of an actual women on the job. The booklets contain outlines for activities that provide information about representative jobs as well as some that help young girls gain a realistic understanding of the effect working will have on their other possible roles (i.e., as student, wife, mother, single woman, etc.) and resources for gathering more information. There is an attempt to include women from different racial and ethnic backgrounds on the career cards. This program was designed for Cadettes and Senior Scouts and is suitable for ages 12-16. (some activities can be modified for younger children.)

Project Equality
DL & Associates
29638 41st Place South
Auburn, WA 98002

Project Equality, L.L. Glennon, Director- A set of non-sexist career education materials that include: Outlines of lesson plans for task simulation activities; pictures of job situations; outlines of lesson in career education, filmstrip-cassette presentation on selected occupations; a directory of speakers on careers (from the Washington area only), a resource list and media display kits. For more detailed description and prices, write for an order form and free Potpourri.

Women's Studies Program Office
Berkeley Unified School District
1720 Oregon Street
Berkeley, CA 94703

The House That Jill and Jack Built. Susan Groves, Project Coordinator- A manual of instructions for equipping and buying supplies for a carpentry program; contains outlines of carpentry lessons and non-sexist stories which when combined, from a unit to develop a non-sexist introduction to carpentry as a career. The manual also includes a list of supplementary resources and pictures of children involved in carpentry work.

Reading Texts

The publishers of the following basal reading series have made a serious attempt to fairly represent both sexes and the various cultural and ethnic groups that comprise the American society. Although other publishers whose names do not appear on this list have made similar efforts, we have listed these particular series because of their sensitivity in addressing the issues of racial and sex-role discrimination and for the quality of production in both literary and illustrative style.

Harper & Row, Publishers
10 East 53rd Street
New York, NY 10022

Reading Basics Plus, 1976- A series of three reading readiness books: Get Ready, Get Set and Go Read, three preprimers: Places and Puzzles, Rain and Riddles, Fish and Fables; a primer, Webs and Wheels and a first reader, Socks and Secrets.

Readiness books are attractively colorful workbooks with a combination of realistically drawn and cartoon like figures that reflect contemporary styles. The other books, softcovered preprimers and hardcovered primers and reader, use a combination of colorful drawings and photographs. Stories are interespersed with ther types of language arts activities.

D.C. Heath Canada, Ltd.
100 Adelaide St., W.
Suite 1408
Toronto, Ontario
CANADA

Women at Work, 1975- The stories of eight women and their non-traditional activities presented in individual paperback books using color photos taken of the women at work. A sample of the activities and occupations shown are fish dealer, pilot, house builder, veterinarian and television producer. The one drawback is that there is no racial diversity among the group of women featured. However, in this case it is because the series is about actual women in Western Canada and accurately reflects the population.

Houghton Mifflin Company
One Beacon St.
Boston, Mass. 02107

The primers and early readers of the Houghton Mifflin Reading Series reviewed include the following books: Rockets, Surprises, Footprints, Honeycomb, Cloverleaf, Sunburst, Tapestry, Windchimes and Passports.

The first three books are softcovered primers illustrated by a combination of cartoon like and realistic drawings. The more difficult readers use a combination of children's stories written by well-known authors, traditional stories found in readers, poems, skill lesson and plays. In the most advanced readers the stories written by well-known children's authors are used exclusively and photographs are introduced as illustrations.

Scott, Foresman and Company
1900 East Lake Avenue
Glenview, Ill. 60025

Scott, Foresman and Company has come a long way from its early Dick, Jane and Sally readers and should be commended.

- The reading Unlimited: Scott, Foresman Systems, Revised levels 1-21 for elementary grades.

Something Special: The Reading Unlimited Kindergarten Program. Truly "something special." A soft covered workbook which includes brightly colored drawings and photographs. Some of the pictures are taken from familiar picture books. The racial mix is the best seen to date and both boys and girls are shown in a variety of active and passive activities.

. Reading Unlimited Pupil's Books. Levels 1-4, grade 1. A set of thirty-one softcovered early readers. The level 1 books have only bright, clear photographs and drawings for object identification and picture reading. Text is introduced in the last book. The illustrative style for books at all levels include drawings and photographs. A combination of well-known children's stories and traditional basal readers stories are used throughout. Level 3 and 4 include stories to develop direction following skills and concept building. There is a good ethnic mix throughout these books.

- The New Open Highway, 1974

. Get Set, for Kindergarten - grade 1.- The first book of the reading series. softcovered book with bright drawings and photographs. Introduces vocabulary and simple sentences.

. Ready to Roll, primer level
. Rolling Along, book 1, part 2
. More Power, book 2, part 1
. Moving Ahead, book 2, part 2

These hardcovered books follow the same format as books in the other Scott, Foresman series.

All series are accompanied by excellent teaching editions with added features of suggestions on how teachers can adapt reading programs to children with learning disabilities, to children who are bilingual and to children with other special needs. Also has a section on involving families in the learning process.

Guidelines

Several publishers and educational groups offer guidelines to avoid sexist language and concept in textbooks and other curriculum materials.

California State Board of Education
State Education Building
721 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, Calif. 95814

"Guidelines for Evaluation of Instructional Materials for Compliance with Content Requirements for the Educational Code." Approved by the California State Board of Education June 13, 1975, prepared by the Curriculum Frameworks and Instructional Materials Selection Unit.

Harper and Row, Publishers
School Department
10 East 53rd Street
New York, NY 10022

"Guidelines for Eliminating Stereotypes from Instructional Materials," Grades k-12. Free.

Holt, Rinehart and Winston
School Department
383 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

"Guidelines for the Development of Elementary and Secondary Instructional Materials: The Treatment of Sex Roles," 1975. Copy available upon request.

MacMillan Publishing Company, Inc.
866 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10002

"Guidelines for Creating Positive Sexual and Racial Images in Educational Materials." Limited availability upon request. Extensive.

McGraw-Hill Book Company
1221 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

"Guidelines for Equal Treatment of the Sexes in McGraw-Hill Book Company Publications." Available free of charge on request.

Science Research Associates, Inc. (SRA)
Department of Communications
259 East Erie Street
Chicago, IL 60611

"Fairness in Educational Materials: Exploring the Issues." In addition to the guidelines, SRA also distributes a series of reprints on sex role stereotyping. The name of the series is "SRA helps you handle stereotyping." Two issues, numbers 5 and 7, deal specifically with early childhood. Guidelines and reprints are available for free.

Scotts, Foresman and Company
99 Bauer Dr.
Oakland, NJ 07136

"Guidelines for Improving the Images of Women in Textbooks." Available on request.

The State Education Department
Division of Curriculum
Albany, NY 12234

"Review Curriculum for Sexism." Write for a copy.

Books and Toy Distributors

Academy Press Limited
360 No. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60601

A publishing company that has printed several publications on non-seixst education. Of special note, The Liberty Cap: A Catalog of Non-Sexist Materials for Children by Enid Davis- A directory of more than 1,000 book, record, and film reviews. Also, contact Enid Davis, 1050 Newell Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303, for back issue of the newsletter from which this directory was complied.

Child's Play
226 Atlantic Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11201

One of the best collections of non-sexist children's books to be found. They sell mail order and have a catalog.

Gryphon House
P.O. Box 274
Mt. Rainer, MD 20822

They distribute an excellent collection of high quality children's books, many with non-sexist and multi-raical titles. The new catalogue has an Author/Title Index and a Subject Area Index. Under the subject area index are subheadings of books on topics such as handicapped children, black children, girls, single parent families/adoption, etc.

Learn Me, Inc.
642 Grand Avenue
St. Paul, Minn. 55105

They carry all kinds of high quality educational materials that have been screened for sexism and racism in addition to non-sexist, multi-racial books. Write for their catalogue to order by mail.

The Open Book
1025 Second Avenue
Salt Lake City, UT 84103

A bookstore specializing in non-sexist books for children, as well as women's books.

Toys That Care and Other Items, Inc.
P.O. Box 81
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510

A distribution of educational materials. They also offer consultation services.

Feminist Publishers

The Feminist Press
Box 334, SUNY
Old Westbury, NY 11568

Non-Sexist books, bibliographies, resource booklets, curriculum materials and the and the like. Excellent resources for elementary, high school and adult feminist materials. Especially useful is their recently revised publication, Feminist Resources for Schools and Colleges: A Guide to Curricular Materials by Merle Froschl and Jane Williamson.

Lollipop Power
P.O. Box 1171
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Publishers and distributors of low cost, non-sexist paperbacks picture books. Many excellent titles. Write for listing.

Records

Caedmon Records
505 Eight Avenue
New York, NY 10018

"Hurray for Captain Jane," 1975. Non-sexist stories by Tammy Grimes. (Other titles for older children also available.)

Free To Be Foundation
370 Lexington Avenue
Room 412, Dept. LW
New York, NY 10017

Bell Records- "Free to Be You and Me"- A project of the Ms. Foundation. (Also available at record shops.)

Resource Centers

Change for Children
532 Valencia St.
San Francisco, CA 94110

Workshops, courses, materials, bibliography of children's books and consultation all aimed at early childhood/elementary grade levels.

Far West Laboratories for Educational
Research and Development
1855 Folsom St.
San Francisco, CA 94103

Workshop, consultations, films, curriculum information.

Resource Center on Sex Roles in Education
National Foundation for the Improvement of Education
1201 16th St., N.W. - Rm. 701
Washington, DC 20036

A National center for the dissemination of information on non-sexist education, K-12.

Women's Action Alliance, Inc.
Non-Sexist Child Development Project
370 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10017

A national clearinghouse on non-sexist early childhood education offering: workshops, consultation, curriculum development, non-sexist, multi-racial materials, information.

Annotated Bibliography of Non-Sexist Picture Books

Birnbaum, Al. Green Eyes. New York: Western Publishing Co., 1953. All about a cat's first year of life. A story of growth, changing seasons, and history.

Brenner, Barbara, photographs by George Ancona. Bodies. New York: E.P. Dutton, 1973. All kinds of bodies doing all kinds of things. It shows boys and girls in the nude, and on the page showing bodily functions, it has a photo of a small boy on the toilet. A real breakthrough book!

Brownstone, Cecily. All Kinds of Mothers. New York: McKay, 1969. An interracial book showing mothers who work both outside and inside the home. The common thread is their love for their children.

Burton, Virginia Lee. Katy and The Big Snow. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1943. Katy is a tractor who is strong enough to plow out an entire snowed-in city.

Cohen, Miriam, illustrated by Lillian Hoban. Will I Have a Friend? New York: MacMillan, 1967. A little boy on his first day at a child care center (taken there by his father) asks if he will find a friend at school. He begins the day feeling uncertain, but by the time he leaves, he's found many friends and feels more secure. He shows that boys have feelings of uncertainty and that a father can take part in his child's life.

Ehrlich, Amy, paintings by C.A. Porker. Zeek Silver Moon. New York: Dial Press, 1972. This exquisitely illustrated book shows the spontaneous affection and humor between father and child. Zeek's father makes him a cradle and sings him a lullaby he made up.

Eichler, Margrit, illustrated by Bev. Magennis. Martin's Father. Chapel Hill: Lollipop Power, 1971. This very simple story is about a nurturing father. It shows Martin and his father performing all the housekeeping tasks essential to daily life as well as enjoying play situations together. Although it never specifically states that no mother is present in the family, it can be used as a story with which one-parent children can identify. The fact that the nurturing parent in this case is the father makes this book a fine addition to a non-sexist booklist.

Felt, Sue. Rosa-Too-Little. New York: Doubleday, 1950. A story of competence and achievement with a little girl as the main character. Rosa wants a library card and has to learn to write her name to get one. She perseveres all summer in the city, and since Rosa is Hispanic, it has the added attraction of being a success story about a minority child.

Gaeddert, Lou Ann. Noisy Nancy Norris. New York: Doubleday, 1965. Nancy is inventive and noisy. She finds out her noisiness is not always appreciated.

_____. Noisy Nancy and Nick. New York: Doubleday, 1970. Noisy Nancy and her new friend, Nick, explore the noisy city together.

Compiled by Staff of the Non-Sexist Child Development Project, Women's Action Alliance, Inc.

Gauch, Pat, drawings by Shimeon Shemin. Grandpa & Me. New York: Coward, McCann and Geoghegan, 1972. A young boy recounts his intimacy with his grandpa and their shared love of nature.

Goldreich, Gloria, and Goldreich, Esther. What Can She Be? New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1972. Photographs show a female veterinarian taking care of animals in her hospital. Two other "What Can She Be?" books portray the work of a broadcaster and a lawyer.

Goodyear, Carmen. The Sheep Book. Chapel Hill: Lollipop Power, 1972. A simple explanation of the kinds of experiences, both sad and happy, that makes men and women and boys and girls cry.

Kaufman, Joe. Busy People and How They Do Their Work. New York: Golden Press, 1973. Although the ratio of jobs is five male and three female, two of the female jobs are non-stereotyped. All of the job descriptions are simple and accurate. While not everything in this book is non-stereotyped, there are pictures of a boy and girl roller skating together, male and female telephone operators, and male and female postal workers.

Klagsbrun, Francine, ed. Free to be You and Me. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1974. While many of the stories may be too old for preschoolers, the book contains the music for all the songs on the record. Young children will also enjoy some of the poems.

Leaf, Munro, illustrated by Robert Lawson. The Story of Ferdinand. New York: Viking, 1936. This classic story is about a non-stereotyped bull! He is gentle, quiet, peace loving, and fond of flowers. He does not like to fight, charge, or roar, but he is still a great big, strong bull. It is a fine non-sexist book because it subtly criticizes prescribed roles.

Merriam, Eve, illustrated by Beni Montresor. Mommies at Work. New York: Knopf, 1961. A good book about mothers who work outside the home. It has a positive tone and combines well the homemaking and working qualities of women. It also depicts many interesting jobs held by women.

_____, illustrated by Harriet Sherman. Boys & Girls, Girls & Boys. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1972. Though by the same author, this book is not as successful as Mommies at Work. It has merit in that it shows boys and girls who are friends with each other; it depicts children of several ethnic groups; and it shows children with a wide variety of interests that are not sex typed. The illustrations are often crowded and confusing, and at times the children are almost grotesque. However, it shows both boys and girls hugging soft toys in bed, catching bugs and worms, and helping with household chores.

Miles, Betty, and Blos, Joan. Just Think. New York: Knopf, 1971. Shows mothers who work outside the home, fathers enjoying their children, girls in action, and many other realistic and exciting facts of life.

Pellet, Elizabeth; Osen, Deborah K.; and May, Marguerite P. A Woman is .... Walnut Creek, CA: Aardvark Media Inc., 1974. This picture book of color photos tells in poetic form what a woman is by describing some of the many roles women fill. Women and girls are pictured as mother, artist, pilot, athlete and scientist, to mention a few. The last page has blank spaces for the reader to fill in what she or he feels a woman is. There is excellent representation of various racial and ethnic groups, especially the usually absent image of the Asian American woman. (For information on where to get a copy, write: Aardvark Media Inc., 1200 Mount Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek, CA 94596)

Reavin, Sam. Hurrah for Captain Jane. New York: Parents' Magazine Press, 1971. While in the bathtub, Jane fantasizes about being the first woman captain of an ocean liner.

Schick, Eleanor. City in the Winter. New York: MacMillan, 1970. Jimmy stays with his grandma while his mother goes to work. They spend a long snowbound day together doing a variety of things, such as cooking soup, making a barn out of a box, and feeding the birds.

Sonneborn, Ruth. I Love Gram. New York: Viking, 1971. A sensitive story about a young girl's love for her grandmother and her fear and sense of loss when Gram gets sick and is hospitalized. It is also the story of a minority home, headed by a working mother.

Surowiecki, Sandra Lucas. Joshua's Day. Chapel Hill: Lollipop Power, 1972. Joshua lives in a one-parent home. His mother, who is a photographer, drops him off each morning at a day care center where he interacts with both boys and girls.

Thayer, Jane. Quiet on Account of Dinosaur. New York: Morrow, 1964. A Fantasy about a little girl who finds a dinosaur on the way to school. She learns so much about dinosaurs that she grows up to be a famous scientist.

Van Woerkom, Dorothy, illustrated by Paul Galdone. The Queen Who Couldn't Bake Gingerbread. New York: Knopf, 1975. An amusing retelling of an old German fairy tale. Both the king and the queen learn about choosing a mate for her or his inner qualities rather than looks. They also learn to do for themselves and to be considerate of each other.

Waber, Bernard. Ira Sleeps Over. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1972. Ira would like to take his teddy bear to his first sleepover but is afraid his friend will think him a baby. When Reggie takes his teddy bear out of a drawer, Ira goes home (next door) to get his too. Shows that boys also need the comfort of stuffed animals.

Wikland, Ilon. I Can Help Too! New York: Random House, Inc., 1974. A nice picture book for a toddler done in durable cardboard with a plastic spiral binding. The toddler, whose sex is not readily identifiable, is shown doing simple chores and activities that a young child of four or five could very successfully carry out.

_____. See What I Can Do! New York: Random House, Inc., 1974. Another Wikland book of the same construction as I Can Help Too! The child in this book is about 2 years old and is pictured carrying out activities appropriate for a child of this age. It highlights activities such as taking off one's socks and using the potty which is a good way to begin to help children develop a feeling of confidence in their abilities.

Woide, Gunilla. Betsy's Baby Brother. New York: Random House, Inc., 1975. Betsy learns what it is like to have a younger brother. Colorful line drawings show baby brother being breast fed and Betsy helping to change his diapers. Little brother is anatomically correct. A positive story of sibling interaction that is real and natural.

_____. This Is Betsy. New York: Random House, Inc., 1975. The first of the Betsy books which introduces the reader to a little girl much like the ones found in anyone's family. Tells about the times when Betsy is acting according to adult expectations and the other times when she's doing what she really wants to do.

_____. Tommy Goes to the Doctor. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1972. Tommy does to his teddy bear what his doctor (a woman) does to him.

_____. Tommy and Sarah Dress Up. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1972. Two very young friends have a fine time dressing up and trying on both male and female clothing.

Yashima, Taro. Crow Boy. New York: Viking, 1955. Another classic children's book, which belongs on every non-sexist list. Crow Boy deals with the feelings of a young boy, a subject not usually dealt with in stories for young children. Chibi is the butt of all the class jokes for six years in elementary school until a male teacher takes the time to discover his uniqueness as a person. By letting Chibi display his unusual talent, he helps the children to realize that they never bothered to find out what kind of person Chibi was, just because he was a little different. A further asset of Crow Boy as a non-sexist book is that it is set in another culture, rural Japan. It also teaches the appreciation of difference. Best for children five years and older.

Young, Miriam. Jellybeans for Breakfast. New York: Parents' Magazine Press, 1968. Two little girls imagine all the fantastic things they will do someday, including going to the moon.

Zolotow, Charlotte, pictures by Ben Schecter. The Summer Night. New York: Harper & Row, 1974. A gentle story of a nurturing father and his little girl. When she can't go to sleep on a warm summer night, her dad figures out all sorts of ways they can enjoy themselves.

_____, illustrated by William Pene Du Bois. William's Doll. New York: Harper & Row, 1972. This well-written book is outstanding for both the quality of its language and its message. It is about a boy who wants a doll to nurture, and about the reactions of his family and friends to his request. When the grandmother explains to William's father her reasons for buying William the doll he wants, she gives a moving account of the importance of the development of gentle and nurturing qualities in prospective fathers.

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